

Application No: 09/894,672
Attorney Docket: 24913A

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 and 24 are pending in the application. Claim 24 is allowed. Claims 3, 8 and 9 are objected to. All rejections are respectfully traversed. Favorable reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Oath/Declaration

The Examiner states that the amended oath does not recite that the person making the oath or declaration believes the named inventor or inventors to be the original and first inventor or inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought.

Applicants have included copies of the as-filed declarations highlighting the statement the Examiner refers to.

Applicants respectfully submit that the declarations are in proper form.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 6-7, 11 and 13-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,155,732, issued to Schlachter.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 3, from which claim 2 depends, would be allowable if rewritten in independent format. To expedite prosecution of this case, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 14 to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3. Claims 2-3 have been canceled herein. Claims 6-7, 11 and 13-19 ultimately depend from one of the newly amended claims (claims 1 or 14) and are believed to be allowable.

As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-2, 6-7, 11 and 13-19 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4-5, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Schlachter in view of Stalego (3,810,741).

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As state above, claim 1 has been amended to contain the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Claims 4-5, 10 and 12 ultimately depend from newly amended claim 1 and are believed to be allowable.

As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 4-5, 10 and 12 be withdrawn.